

CITY OF GALVA)
COUNTY OF HENRY) SS
STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday July 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Melissa Halsall sitting as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: James Hartman, Jayme Hopping, Jackie Clucas, Jeff Olson and Doug Anderson. Aldermen Otterstrom was noted as being absent.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Clucas asked to have the details of the closing on the Galva Hair Company purchase added to the closed minutes.

Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to approve the June 23, 2023 council meeting minutes. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Hopping moved and was seconded that the bills and claims be approved as presented and the City Clerk is instructed to issue orders on the Treasurer’s account for the several amounts. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Volkert reported that the City had received: State of IL: June Video Gaming tax \$4,029.94, June Cannabis tax \$313.23, May Telecommunications tax \$1,879.67, May State Use tax \$7,557.53, June Income tax \$37,118.97, May Sales tax \$23,956.48, Personal Property Tax May-June \$23,322.18, June MFT \$9,265.24

First on the agenda was Recognition of Al and Shelly Decrane. Al and Shelly had recently been named the Henry County Soil and Water Conservation State Director of the Year and Conservation Woman of the Year respectively. Al spoke on several things that they have been involved in including 4H programs and both Girl and Boy Scout programs. They help educate on soil and water conservation methods and their roles as farmers by giving tours to various groups including students from Augustana College for example. They have helped plant 10,600 trees. Al added that Chloe Ruhl had also won a state poster contest with her entry and she will move to the next round of competition with it. Alderman Anderson thanked them for all they have done and the work they have put into their property to make it presentable and neat. Alderman Clucas pointed out to Shelly how impressed she is by her winning the award of Conservation Woman of the Year. The council offered their congratulations to both Al and Shelly.

Next on the agenda presentation by Bruce Palmer. Bruce came to address conversations about his property. He noted that his son is a co-owner of the business. They are working on the purchase of a neighboring lot to build an office building and scale house, in turn, making more room on the existing property to properly store any inventory. He noted that

the business now meets state EPA requirements after soil testing was completed. Ameren is doing promised concrete work when construction commences on the property. Bruce would like to work with the City to get a special use permit for the lot he plans to purchase to be able to zone as commercial. He mentioned that his goal is to not use the city streets or easements at all. Bruce talked about an 8ft steel fence he has ordered from JMAC in Galva, and wants to continue buying local if at all possible and wants to move forward with his plans with the blessing of the council. Palmer asked the council members to come visit to see what they are doing there. He feels property is the cleanest in town after taking care of the issues needing addressed in the past. Palmer has some chain link fencing he will be removing to be replaced by the steel fence and plans to donate it to the City upon removal. He noted that the gates on the fence will be 6 ft tall, with the remainder of the fence being 8 ft.

Alderman Anderson asked what guarantee there is that they will no longer violate ordinances.

Palmer answered that space is his limit currently, he admits that he should not load in the easement but also argues that his street is a truck route and other businesses in town load and unload in the middle of the street. He also promised that once his fence is in place, nothing will be outside of the fence going forward. He takes responsibility for past violations, and is currently liquidating his inventory to make more space, putting in oil traps to avoid any impacts to the environment.

Alderman Anderson asked Bruce Palmer to bring a business plan to the next meeting August 28, 2023 and Bruce agreed and then went on to speak about the purchase of property adjacent to his current location but cannot commit to that purchase without a special permit from the city to operate since it is currently zoned residential. He added he put a new roof on and has plans to finish siding.

Alderman Anderson then asked Palmer to complete additional work to the buildings before the meeting in August.

Palmer spoke about a clean up job that had to meet approval of the EPA which was granted last month or he would have been at a council meeting sooner with his presentation of his plans.

Alderman Anderson requested sales tax information on parts he has been selling, Palmer noted he could get that from his taxes paid. Palmer added that all work will be done inside the fence, but trailers will be on the easement until space is available.

Richard Plummer was asked by Alderman Anderson to check on easement information regarding feet, and he asked Bruce Palmer to have the potential land purchase surveyed, Palmer said it would be difficult for him to do that when he doesn't own it and would have to have permission from current owner but would look into it.

Greg Thompson mentioned to Bruce that anything taking place within 1000 ft of a city well he would need reports on so he can coordinate with Bruce.

Alderman Clucas asked Bruce what he needs a special use permit for and he explained that in order to use the land he hopes to purchase, he would need permission to use for anything other than residential to put scale house and office there.

City Attorney Zac Lessard asked for a copy of the all clear letter from the EPA for Ameren to conduct clean up on the property.

Palmer's business is named Palmer & Son, LLC.

Next on the agenda was the Sexton's Recommendation for the Bishop Hill Cemetery. Richard Plummer, sexton, asked the council to approve doubling the current rates for our cemetery to bill Bishop Hill for the same services. He mentioned that we really can't afford to use the time of the street department for this service, since there are only 3 employees. Richard estimated that each dig would take at least 4 hours. David Dyer asked Richard to explain the process. Richard does the planning of the digs, and a lot depends on the weather. We would have to drive the backhoe over, dig, drive back, dump dirt if they don't have a pile to work with there, drive back and dig the rest, go back to dump and back again to fill. We could potentially spend hours at the cemetery waiting on family to finish. Also includes overtime for weekend funerals. He explained holiday and weekend rates and a potential to go back again if a grave were to cave in. There will also be a lot of wear and tear on the equipment. David mentioned that if we have a main break, cemetery can't take a back seat and would pull from our staff. It was suggested we try the doubled rates for one year and revisit. Alderman Hopping moved and was seconded to vote to double the rates for a trial period of one year. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was the **Appropriations Ordinance**. David presented the ordinance as council has had for one month. The floor was opened for suggestions and questions. David mentioned that it must be passed at this meeting and filed by the end of this month.

Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Hand was present and wanted to address pools without fences. She mentioned she drove down all streets on the south side of town. Most houses with pools had fences or a boundary. 2 houses had no fences with pools. She said she has called in complaints about them for 3 years and wants to know why they are getting away with it. She is worried about children drowning. Mayor Volkert asked her to provide the addresses to Chief Kraig Townsend and they will get back to her.

Sean O'Brien was present and wanted to discuss a proposed parking ordinance and express his concerns. He stated that his son, Camron, had been in a motorcycle accident. He then said that on 7/21/2001, Officer Kris Allen came to his door looking for his girlfriend and found her at his house hanging out with him and his friends. The next morning he said that Officer Allen showed up at the City maintenance building, where he worked at the time, with 3 traffic violations written to him. He asked how he can do that and was told that a complaint was called in. Sean said that the person who called in the complaint was in jail at that time. He then went on to talk about an event in 2018. Mayor Volkert asked O'Brien if he had any recent concerns, when Sean stated it was a recent concern and continued about a story in 2018 where he spotted an officer opening a storage shed on his property on video surveillance. He was notified he was in violation of

an ordinance shortly after. Mayor Volkert asked Sean what we could help him with at this time. Sean mentioned he had concerns about the proposed ordinance. He pointed out locations about town in violation of current ordinances. He asked that we enforce current ordinances before we add more restrictions. Mayor Volkert let Sean know that because he had threatened legal action, the council is not able to discuss with him and he would need to reach out to our attorney. Zac Lessard handed his business card to Mr. O'Brien. Sean said he had not threatened legal action, and Alderman Anderson noted that he had copied his lawyer on correspondence.

At this time, Travis Finin addressed Alderman Anderson asking why we aren't citing other businesses. Anderson and Bruce Palmer both agreed that the locations he was referencing are not residential properties. This prompted the Mayor to investigate the zoning on a property owned by Appell Enterprises behind the old Lord Chevy dealership. This property had been addressed in 2005 according to Alderman Anderson when he was previously on the city council, and since then items had been moved back onto the property. Mayor Volkert said we will get back to Palmer & Sons, LLC.

Alderman Anderson noted that 20 people have showed up and complained about properties in town and this ordinance is for those people. Anderson also agreed that the Appell property doesn't look right but until the property is sold, it is grandfathered in to any changes in zoning ordinances that are made.

The Mayor mentioned why ordinances are in place...to keep order in various parts of government.

David asked O'Briens about their son, Camron's motorcycle accident Sean mentioned. He broke his collar bone. The council expressed concern.

Sean mentioned that he feels that Chief Townsend and his officers are doing a tremendous job and appreciates the work that they do.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Chief Byers spoke on a fire that took place on July 19th. Four volunteers responded, three of which work for the City. He really appreciates how easy it is for our workers to respond to calls. Altona, Lafayette, Toulon and Cambridge Fire assisted as well as Bishop Hill. The house was a total loss but everyone is ok, nothing noted as suspicious. Alderman Anderson asked if we have an ordinance mandating demolition after a fire after a certain amount of time. Fire chief noted he can condemn an unsafe building, and that immediately after a fire, BoardUp closes and fences off for safety reasons. John McArthur was present and noted that when his family home burned, insurance caused delays in allowing work to be done.

Alderman Clucas praised the fire department and was amazed at the response time. She said it was a proud Galva moment. Mayor Volkert thanked City Secretary Melissa Halsall and friends for taking donations for the family.

Richard Plummer did not have a report.

Greg Thompson mentioned that boring for water and sewer work has been completed. Kraig Townsend said the department sent 3 students to part-time training. One officer is on a medical waiver and could not attend. The department will be refunded for the portion of training not completed. K9 officer had a surgery that day and will be out of commission for 2 weeks.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports.

Alderman Hartman asked Kraig about a squad car sitting at Williams Collision. Kraig explained that the Taurus is being converted to a civilian car, and the silver squad is converting to K9 unit. Williams should be done with both projects soon.

Alderman Clucas thanked Richard for the flags flying for the 4th of July.

Alderman Anderson also thanked Richard for the flags. He said that the school board approached him about whether or not the city could work on an after school program. He asked for ideas. 110 kids every day participated in a former program in which funding was granted to the high school instead of elementary.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer asked Greg Thompson to explain the new valves and hydrants, and valving off downtown for the exchange st crossing. BNSF did not give a permit to re-route our water mains. BNSF wants to put a new crossing arm right on the water main. We will put in two insert valves on either side to protect the city lines in the next two weeks. Long term solutions would be to sleeve a new water main in the next few years.

Mayor Volkert made mention that he appreciated that even though the conversations at the meeting could have gone differently, he was impressed by the way everyone communicated with each other.

Alderman Hopping moved and was seconded to move to executive session. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

SEE ATTACHED

Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to come out of executive session. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

After no further discussion Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to adjourn. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk.